

REMARKS

The applicant hereby elects to prosecute the claims in Group II, namely claims 7-21. The Applicant also elects to prosecute the species of claims 7-13, and has made all the claims in the case dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 7. A new independent claim 22 and dependent claim 23 have been added, these claims follow claim 7 and are part of that group of claims.

Some amendments have been made to the specification to clarify the application of the motor 44. As set out in the originally filed application in claim 15, the motor is a stepper motor. Stepper motors are stepped to rotate driven members, in this case, the heated roller. The stepping during the time the roller is heated is such that the rotation will make the temperature of the roller substantially uniform and the portion of the roller that is exposed at the slot will not be permitted to excessively cool relative to other portions of the roller.

The specification has been amended therefore to clarify the fact that the motor is a stepper motor, and that it is stepped in order to cause rotation at the desired rotational rate for obtaining the effect of moving the roller sufficiently so that sections of the roller do not cool excessively at portions exposed at the slot between the guides. It should be noted that the rotation concept includes permitting the roller to coast, as set out in the specification.

It is thus believed that the claims included in this case, namely 7-23 are examinable in the same case, and action to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Applicant is also submitting an Information Disclosure Statement herein, bringing to the Examiner's attention the results of a search and Written Opinion in a corresponding PCT application, which search was conducted by the European Patent Office.

A further example of a prior art device sold by the Assignee of the present application more than a year before the filing date of this application. It should be noted that claim 7 includes the ability to load the circuit board from the interior of the roll to engage a non-rotating shaft that is mounted at the exterior of the roll.

Further, it is requested that the changes made in FIGS. 5 and 6 be approved. Copies of Figures 5 and 6 with red ink marks are included. In Figure 5, the formal drawings submitted included a numeral 72 in an incorrect place, and that is being removed. Further, the spring 93 was illustrated as bearing against the retainer 88B, but the spring is to provide a spring force between the support or web 92 and the sliding cage 90, and the amendments are to make this change. These corrections are to correct a drawing error and conform the drawings to the specification. The support for these changes are on page 11, lines 19-24, where it indicates that the spider or retainer 92 backs the spring 93 that acts between the spider and the cage 90 to urge the cage and circuit board toward an end surface of a portion 82 of the tubular stationary shaft 72. The spring has to be between the spider 92 and the cage to act in that manner, as now shown in the proposed corrections to the drawings. The reason for the stop clip 88B is set out on page 13, lines 16-22. It is to provide a stop to prevent the spring 93 from pushing the pin portion 88A out of the spider 82 when the roll is removed.

Thus, the requested changes to Figures 5 and 6 are to make the drawings correspond to the operational features set out in the specification, and no new matter is being added. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

A request for a two-month extension of time is enclosed herewith together with the required fee.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Nickolas E. Westman, Reg. No. 20,147
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

NEW:rkp